



17
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF

SEVENOAKS.

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

Sevenoaks Rural Sanitary District

IN THE YEAR

❧ 1904 ❧

BY

JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.



ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

Sevenoaks Rural Sanitary District

IN

1904.

AREA AND POPULATION.

No. of Regn. Dist.	Area in Statute Acres.			Inhabited Houses.			Population.		
	Land and Inland Water.	Inland Water only.	Land only.	1881	1891	1901	1881	1891	1901
48	63,337	338	62,999	3,786	4,417	4,829	19,155	22,164	22,684

The POPULATION of the Sevenoaks Rural District estimated to the middle of 1904 was 22,855, showing an increase of 171 since the census of 1901, and of 53 on the estimated population of 1903.

The number of registered births amounted to 493, including 258 of males and 235 of females, and giving a **Birth-Rate** of **21·5** per 1,000 of population as against 23·5 in 1903 and 21·6 in 1902.

Two hundred and seventy-three deaths were registered, consisting of 150 of males and 123 of females. From this number must be deducted 13 deaths of non-residents, while 2 deaths of residents who died outside the District must be added.

The Death-Rate was **11·4** per 1,000 of population, as compared with 11·8 in the previous year, and 12·0 in 1902.

The Principal Epidemic Diseases include Small-pox, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping-cough, Fever (including the three principal forms: Typhus, Enteric or Typhoid Fever, and Pyrexia of uncertain origin), and Diarrhœa.

Of the total 262 deaths, 14 were caused by one or other of these diseases, viz., 2 by Scarlet Fever, 3 by Whooping-cough, 2 by Diphtheria, 1 by Enteric Fever, 1 by Puerperal Fever, and 5 by Diarrhœa.

The Epidemic Disease Death-rate was **0·6** per 1,000 of population—the same rate as in the previous year.

The Infant Mortality, i.e., the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per each 1,000 registered births was 97 as compared with 102 in the previous year, and 79 in 1902.

During the year 1904 the Birth-rate throughout England and Wales taken as a whole was 27·9 (which is the lowest rate on record), the general death-rate 16·2, and the epidemic disease death-rate 1·94 per 1,000 of population. The rate of mortality among infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was 146.

It will be seen from the above that the vital statistics for the year are of a very satisfactory character, the general death-rate, epidemic disease death-rate, and infant mortality being respectively 4·8, 1·34, and 49 below those of the country generally.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

The following diseases are notifiable under the provisions of the Infectious Disease (Notification) Acts, 1889, and 1899: Small-pox, Diphtheria, Membranous Croup, Erysipelas, the disease known as Scarlatina or Scarlet Fever, and the Fevers known by any of the following names: Typhus, Typhoid or Enteric, Relapsing, Continued and Puerperal, and also any infectious disease to which the Acts have been applied by the local authority in manner provided by the Acts.

Of these diseases eighty cases were notified as compared with 188 in the previous year, and consisted of 33 cases of Diphtheria, 22 of Erysipelas, 19 of Scarlet Fever, 5 of Enteric Fever, and 1 of Puerperal Fever.

SMALL POX. It is satisfactory to note that the District was entirely free from this disease during the whole of the year.

DIPHTHERIA. Thirty-three cases were notified as compared with 73 in the previous year, and were reported as follows:

January ...	6 cases	July ...	1 case
February ...	7 „	August ...	2 „
March ...	1 „	September...	3 „
April ...	0 „	October ...	3 „
May ...	1 „	November...	4 „
June ...	2 „	December ...	3 „
			<hr/> Total 33 cases. <hr/>

The different parishes contributed to the total thus:—

Chevening ...	1 case	Shoreham ...	1 case
Kemsing ...	12 „	SevenoaksWeald	2 „
Otford ...	5 „	Westerham ...	7 „
Seal ...	1 „	Edenbridge ...	4 „
			<hr/> Total 33 cases. <hr/>

The parishes of Halstead, Brasted, Riverhead, Sundridge, Chiddingstone, Cowden, Hever, Leigh, and Penshurst were free from the disease throughout the year.

Two of the cases proved fatal, viz., one from Heverham, Kemsing, in January, at the Otford Isolation Hospital; and one from Longford, Otford, in September, at the Hever Isolation Hospital, both patients being boys aged 7 and $2\frac{1}{2}$ years respectively.

The cases and deaths occurred at the following age-periods:—

<u>1—5</u> years	<u>5—15</u> years	<u>15—25</u> years	<u>25—65</u> years
<u>6</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
1	1		— 33 cases — 2 deaths

The twelve cases of Diphtheria which occurred in the parish of Kemsing as compared with 32 cases in 1903 and 59 in 1902, were reported during the year as follows:—

January	...	2 cases	June	..	2 cases
February	...	6 „	July	...	1 „
March	...	1 „			—
			Total		12 cases.
					—

This parish was thus entirely free from the disease during the last five months of the year.

The sewerage of the village was completed by the end of the year, the outfall being into the Darenth Valley Sewer, which in its turn discharges into the West Kent Main Sewer. Fifty-nine connections have been made under the supervision of Mr. Fowler, and I have again to urge the necessity of the supply of flush cisterns for each W.C. provided and the provision of proper ash-pits.

ERYSIPELAS. Twenty-two cases—with one death—occurred, as compared with 20 in the previous year.

The cases and death occurred at the following age-periods:—

<u>15—25</u> years.	<u>25—65</u> years.	<u>65 and</u> upwards
<u>2</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>7</u>
		— 22 cases 1 — 1 death

SCARLET FEVER fell from 90 cases in 1903 to 19 cases in 1904, and were reported as follows:—

April...	...	1 case	September	...	3 cases
May ...	...	3 „	October ...	...	5 „
June ...	...	1 „	November	...	3 „
August	...	2 „	December	...	1 „
					<hr/> Total 19 cases <hr/>

The district was free from the disease during the months of January, February, March and July.

The several parishes contributed to the total as follows:

Chevening	...	1 case	Westerham	...	2 cases
Shoreham	...	1 „	Cowden	...	2 „
Brasted...	...	5 „	Edenbridge	...	2 „
Sundridge	...	3 „	Penshurst	...	3 „
					<hr/> Total 19 cases <hr/>

No cases occurred in the parishes of Halstead, Kemsing, Otford, Seal, Riverhead, Sevenoaks Weald, Chiddingstone, Hèver and Leigh.

Two of the cases proved fatal at the Hèver Hospital in May—a girl aged 8 years, and a boy aged 6 years—both from Penshurst.

The cases and deaths arose at the following age-periods:—

1—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—65 years	
<hr/> 4	<hr/> 13	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1	—19 cases.
	2			— 2 deaths.

ENTERIC (or TYPHOID) FEVER. Five cases of this disease occurred, as against 2 in 1903, and were notified one in each of the months of March, June, July, August, and September. Locally they occurred: 3 at Westerham, 1 at Edenbridge, and 1 at Kemsing.

The case notified in March—a young man aged 19 years from Westerham—proved fatal in the following June.

The cases and death occurred at the following age-periods :

<u>15—25</u> years	<u>25—65</u> years
3	2 —5 cases.
1	—1 death.

PUERPERAL FEVER. One fatal case of this disease occurred at Westerham in April.

NON=NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

WHOOPING COUGH was responsible for 3 deaths of infants under 1 year of age—one in January at Westerham, 1 in July at Edenbridge, and 1 in October at Halstead.

INFLUENZA caused seven deaths—1 in March at Westerham, 1 in April at Chiddingstone, 1 in October at Chevening, and 4 in December (1 at Otford, Westerham, Leigh, and Edenbridge). Six of the patients were of an advanced age and one an infant.

DIARRHŒA. Five deaths resulted from this disease—1 in May at Seal, 3 in August (2 at Halstead and 1 at Kemsing), and 1 in November at Penshurst—the patients' ages varying from 26 days to 9 years.

HOSPITAL ISOLATION.

The number of cases treated at the Isolation Hospitals during the year has been as follows :

At the Chiddingstone, Cowden, Edenbridge, Hever, Leigh, and Penshurst Hospital, situated in the Parish of Hever, and subsequently referred to for brevity as the Hever Hospital.	}	21 cases
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At the temporary structures and Berthon Tents at Otford.	}	23 cases
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Total	<u>44 cases</u>
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Although the Hever Hospital is essentially provided for patients resident in the six parishes above enumerated, yet the Committee have not refused the admission of patients from the other parishes in the area of the Rural District when accommodation has been available, and of the 21 cases treated 12 were patients from outside the hospital area, viz., 1 from the parish of Chevening, 2 from Kemsing, 3 from Otford, 3 from Brasted and 3 from Sundridge.

Patients were admitted as follows:—

HEVER HOSPITAL.

April	...	1 case	...	Scarlet Fever.
May	...	3 „	...	Scarlet Fever.
June	...	1 „	...	Scarlet Fever.
July	...	1 „	...	Diphtheria.
August	...	2 „	...	1 Enteric Fever, 1 Diphtheria.
September	...	2 „	...	Diphtheria.
October	...	5 „	...	3 Scarlet Fever, 2 Diphtheria.
November	...	3 „	...	Scarlet Fever.
December	...	3 „	...	1 Scarlet Fever, 2 Diphtheria.

Total	<u>21</u>	cases :	12 Scarlet Fever, 8 Diphtheria, 1 Enteric Fever.
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Deaths :—3 deaths occurred—1 Diphtheria removed from Otford, and 2 from Scarlet Fever removed from Penshurst.

OTFORD TEMPORARY HOSPITAL AND TENTS.

January	...	6 cases	...	Diphtheria.
February	...	3 „	...	Diphtheria.
March	...	1 „	...	Diphtheria.
May	...	1 „	...	Diphtheria.
June	...	2 „	...	Diphtheria.
August	...	2 „	...	Scarlet Fever.
September	...	3 „	...	Scarlet Fever.
November	...	4 „	...	Diphtheria.
December	...	1 „	...	Diphtheria.

Total	<u>23</u>	cases :	18 Diphtheria, 5 Scarlet Fever.
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Deaths :—1 death from Diphtheria occurred which was removed from Kemsing.

The temporary provision above referred to consists of two modern Berthon Tents and three wooden structures erected on land, the purchase of which has practically been completed. A public water supply is laid on and a sewer is available for the future permanent structure which is contemplated.

On June 18th an influential committee met on this site with the Clerk (Mr. Carnell), the Architect for the new proposed hospital (Mr. M. Maberly Smith), the Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector (Mr. Fowler), and myself, and discussed the position of the new buildings, the accommodation necessary, the boundary fences, &c.

Some slight hitch in the negotiations for the land delayed progress, but at the end of the year these difficulties had been overcome and plans were being prepared.

In addition to this temporary provision a joint site is hired at Ide Hill and additional Berthon Tents are kept in readiness for any cases of Small-pox which may occur in any part of the Rural or Urban Districts of Sevenoaks.

INSPECTIONS.

There are still no **Common Lodging Houses** in this area and those beer houses and coffee taverns at which accommodation is provided have been kept under observation and no complaints have been received or faults found in their management during the year.

The **Dairies and Cowsheds and Slaughter-houses** have also been visited at regular intervals and defects found have been remedied without recourse to legal proceedings.

FACTORY & WORKSHOP ACT, 1901.

In my report for last year I gave a detailed list of factories and workshops in each village making a total of 8 factories and 63 workshops. I have had no intimation that the number has altered. Details of inspection are given in Mr. Fowler's report and the table issued by the Home Office is also appended.

EDENBRIDGE SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The works suggested and designed by Mr. Baldwin Latham were completed in August last, and about the end of that month sewage was turned into the new tanks and beds; but these have evidently not yet come into a condition to be able to purify this very rank combination of sewage and tannery waste.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLOSURES.

It was considered necessary to advise the closure of the following elementary schools for the periods and on account of the prevalence of the infectious disease set opposite each:—

Dunton Green Schools.	February 1st to February 19th ...	Influenza.
National School, Edenbridge.	July 12th „ August 26th ...	Measles.
British School, Edenbridge.	August 5th „ August 26th ...	Measles.
Greybury School, Marsh Green.	November 7th „ December 23rd...	Measles and Diphtheria.
Earl Amherst's School, Riverhead.	November 17th „ December 23rd...	Measles.
Ide Hill Church School.	December 5th „ December 23rd...	Scarlet Fever.
National Schools, Halstead.	December 12th „ December 23rd...	Measles.
National Schools, Dunton Green.	December 12th „ December 23rd...	Measles.

OVERCROWDING occurred to a considerable extent at times and during August last my attention was called to holiday children being sent from London into houses already too full.

One case at Westerham was particularly marked and although the Superintendent of the Society who sent the children down was staying in the place, most unhealthy conditions were allowed to exist. I personally saw the Secretary of the Society in London, explained the conditions and pointed out that the supervision was defective and that the children must be doing more harm than good by their holiday.

REPORTS DURING YEAR.

During the year I have made reports to the Council on the following subjects:—insanitary dwelling, Otford; diphtheria and drainage

at Kemsing; on the proposed isolation hospital; poisoned fish in the river Eden; registration of births; school closures on account of infectious disease, &c.

It has not been found necessary to take any legal proceedings during the year with respect to any matters connected with the public health.

The condition of the District at the end of the year was satisfactory, but the prevalence of Measles caused the necessity for advising the closure of several elementary schools.

Mr. Fowler's report of the sanitary work carried out by him during the year, the statistical tables required by the Local Government Board, and the table provided by the Secretary of State for recording action taken under the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, are appended.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. S. TEW.

March 30th, 1905.

TABLE I.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each year.	Births.		Deaths under one year of age.		Deaths at all Ages.		Deaths in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Non-Residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond district.	Nett Deaths at all ages belonging to the District.	
		Number.	Rate *	Number.	Rate per 1000 Births registered.	Number.	Rate *				Number.	Rate *
1898	23575	520	22'0	...	98	272	11'5	34	7	...	265	11'2
1899	23748	550	23'1	87	156	330	13'8	39	5	...	325	13'6
1900	23914	543	22'7	55	101	304	12'7	41	6	...	298	12'4
1901	22684	524	23'0	72	137	321	14'1	41	7	...	314	13'8
1902	22749	493	21'6	39	79	278	12'2	33	5	...	273	12'0
1903	22802	536	23'5	55	102	279	12'2	44	8	...	271	11'8
Averages for years 1898-1903.	23245	527	22'6	61	112	297	12'7	38	6	...	291	12'4
1904	22855	493	21'5	48	97	273	11'9	48	13	2	262	11'4

* Rates calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Area of District in Acres
(exclusive of area
covered by water). } 62999

At Census of 1901.
Total Population at all ages..... 22684
Number of inhabited houses.....4829
Average number of persons per house..4

TABLE II.

Year.	SEVENOAKS RURAL.				SHOREHAM. Sub. Reg. Dist.				SEVENOAKS Sub. Reg. District.				PENSHURST Sub. Reg. District.			
	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.	Population esti- mated to middle of each year.	Births Registered.	Deaths at all ages.	Deaths under 1 year.
1900	23914	543	298	55	7414	190	81	22	7882	159	114	8	8588	194	103	25
1901	22684	524	314	72	...	179	101	31	...	178	115	18	...	167	98	23
1902	22749	493	273	39	7250	160	97	17	7586	152	89	7	7913	181	87	15
1903	22802	536	271	55	7280	194	90	18	7600	176	97	21	7922	166	84	16
Averages for years 1900-1903.	23037	524	289	55	7324	180	92	22	7689	166	103	13	8140	177	93	19
1904	22855	493	262	48	7310	150	90	17	7614	152	78	11	7931	191	94	20

TABLE III.

Notifiable Diseases.	Cases notified in Whole District.							Total cases notified in each locality.			No. of cases removed to Hospital from each locality.		
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.						Shoreham.	Sevenoaks.	Penshurst.	Shoreham.	Sevenoaks.	Penshurst.
		Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and upwards						
Diphtheria ...	33	...	6	18	5	4	...	20	9	4	16	6	4
Erysipelas ...	22	...	...	...	2	13	7	6	8	8	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	19	...	4	13	1	1	...	2	10	7	2	10	5
Enteric Fever ...	5	...	...	...	3	2	...	1	3	1	1	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	80	...	10	31	11	21	7	29	31	20	19	16	9

TABLE IV.

Causes of Death.	Deaths in whole District at subjoined Ages.							Deaths in Localities at all ages.			Total Deaths, whether of residents or non-residents in public institutions in the District.
	All Ages.	Under 1.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Shoreham	Seven-oaks.	Penshurst.	
Small-Pox ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	2	2
Epidemic Influenza ..	7	1	...	...	...	1	5	2	2	3	...
Whooping-cough ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...
Diphtheria, Membranous Croup	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	...	1
Croup ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...
Diarrhœa, Dysentery	5	3	1	1	...	...	...	4	...	1	...
Epidemic or Zymotic Enteritis	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Enteritis ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other continued fevers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	1
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Other septic diseases	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...
Tuberculosis of Meninges	3	1	1	1	...	...	...	2	...	1	...
Tuberculosis of Lungs	18	...	1	...	3	14	...	4	9	5	7
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	9	2	1	2	...	3	1	4	4	1	1
Alcoholism	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Cancer	27	...	...	...	...	11	16	11	7	9	4
Premature Birth ...	3	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	2	...
Developmental Diseases	15	13	1	...	...	...	1	4	1	10	1
Old Age	40	...	...	...	...	...	40	16	10	14	5
Meningitis	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	1	1	...	...
Inflammation and Softening of Brain	3	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	2	...	2
Organic Diseases of Heart	21	...	...	1	...	11	9	6	10	5	1
Acute Bronchitis ...	13	8	...	...	...	2	3	5	2	6	1
Chronic Bronchitis ...	9	...	...	...	...	...	9	2	5	2	1
Lobar (Croupous) Pneumonia	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	1
Lobular (Broncho-) Pneumonia	9	2	1	...	1	4	1	2	3	4	2
Diseases of Stomach ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Obstruction of Intestines	2	1	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	...	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	1
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	13	...	...	...	...	4	9	4	5	4	4
Tumors and other Affections of Female Genital Organs ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Accidents and Diseases of Parturition ...	3	1	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	...	1
Deaths by Accident or Negligence	7	...	1	2	...	2	2	1	2	4	...
Deaths by Suicide ...	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
Deaths from ill-defined causes	2	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...
All other causes ...	35	7	...	2	2	8	16	10	8	17	11
All causes	262	48	8	13	7	69	117	90	78	94	48

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1904, for the Rural District of Sevenoaks.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS, LAUNDRIES, WORKPLACES AND HOMEWORK.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
Factories } (Including Factory Laundries.)	151	10	Nil.
Workshops } (Including Workshop Laundries.)			"
Workplaces }			"
Homeworkers' Premises			"
Total	151	10	Nil.

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecution.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Act—*</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	6	6	Nil.	Nil.
Want of Ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage to floors			"	"
Other nuisances				
‡Sanitary accommodation {insufficient	2	2		
{unsuitable or defective	2	2		
{not separate for sexes				
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Act—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (S. 101)				
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bake-houses (SS. 97 to 100)				
Failure as regard lists of outworkers (S. 107)				
Giving out work to be done { unwholesome (S. 108)				
{ infected (S. 110)				
Allowing wearing apparel to be made in premises infected by scarlet fever or smallpox (S. 109)				
Other Offences				
Total	10	10	Nil.	Nil.

*Including those specified in Sections 2, 3, 7 and 8, of the Factory Act as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

‡For districts not in London state here whether Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1895, has been adopted by the District Council; and if so what standard of sufficiency and suitability of sanitary accommodation for persons employed in factories and workshops has been enforced.

3.—OTHER MATTERS.

Class.	Number.
Matters notified to H.M. Inspectors of Factories :—	
Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (S. 133) .	
Action taken in matters referred by H.M. Inspectors as remediable under the Public Health Acts, but not under the Factory Acts (S. 5)	Notified by H.M. Inspectors Reports (of action taken) sent to H.M. Inspectors
Other	
Underground Bakehouses (S. 101) :—	
In use during 1903	
Certificates granted { in 1903 in 1904	
In use at the end of 1904	
Homework :—	
List of Outworkers* (S. 107) :—	Number of
Lists received	Lists | Outworkers
Addresses of outworkers { forwarded to other Authorities . received from other Authorities ...	1 | 13
Homework in unwholesome or infected premises :—	Wearing Apparel; | Other.
Notices prohibiting homework in unwholesome premises (S, 108)	
Cases of infectious disease notified in homeworkers' premises	
Orders prohibiting homework in infected premises	
Workshops on the Register (S. 131) at the end of 1904.	63
Important classes of workshops, such as workshop bak'houses may be enumerated here. {	
Total number of workshops on Register	63

*The Lists should be received twice in the year. The year's figures required in the Table are then obtained by adding together the two half-yearly totals.

Sevenoaks Rural District Council.

Report for Year 1904.

Nuisances &c. dealt with.

Houses in Dirty Condition	...	...	...	...	66
Houses in Defective Condition	...	...	...	...	76
Drains in Defective Condition	...	...	...	...	34
Foul and Defective Privies	...	...	...	...	33
Ditches in a State of Nuisance	...	...	...	...	20
Pig Nuisances	...	...	...	...	15
Fowl Nuisances	...	...	...	...	20
Houses Disinfected	...	...	...	...	81
Cases Treated in Hospital—Hever	...	...	...	...	21
" " " —Otford	...	...	...	...	23
Roofs Defective	...	...	...	...	30
Houses without a proper Supply of Water	...	...	...	...	15
Houses Overcrowded	...	...	...	...	29
Houses with Defective Guttering	...	...	...	...	26
Houses Provided with Guttering	...	...	...	...	40
Houses Provided with Ash Pits	...	...	...	...	39
Manure Nuisances	...	...	...	...	12
Bakehouses Cleansed	...	...	...	...	8
Slaughterhouses Cleansed	...	...	...	...	7
Cowsheds Cleansed	...	...	...	...	10
Cesspits in a state of nuisance	...	...	...	...	23
Houses Closed, unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	6
Defective W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	37
Samples of Water Taken	...	...	...	...	6
Houses with Insufficient Closet Accommodation...	...	...	...	...	20
Wells Cleansed	...	...	...	...	6
Defective Traps to Yard Sinks	...	...	...	...	10
Accumulation of House Refuse	...	...	...	...	40
Houses with Defective Vent Pipes	...	...	...	...	12
Drains not Ventilated	...	...	...	...	20
Wells Closed	...	...	...	...	2
Defective Yard Sinks	...	...	...	...	9
Yards not Paved	...	...	...	...	25
Defective Urinals	...	...	...	...	4

Total 825

One hundred and twenty-one inspections have been made to premises under the Factory and Workshops Act, and notices to cleanse have been served in ten instances.

Houses connected to Sewers.

Kemsing, 59 ; Westerham, 12.

The Slaughter-houses (17), Cowsheds (57), and Bake-houses (26), have been periodically inspected and where found necessary notices have been served for cleansing the same.

A. FOWLER,

Sanitary Inspector.

